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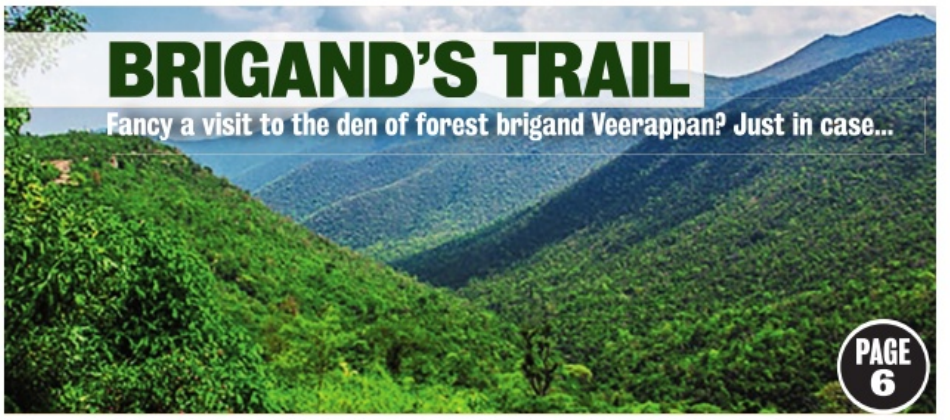
Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 30 | Min 19 | Humidity 61% Partly Cloudy Sensex 65,721 | Nifty 19,517 | Gold 59,522 | Silver 72,488 | Dollar 82.68 | Euro 91.17 | GBP 105.41

FLEX FLUX

No respite from illegal banners; many crop up under BBMP's nose

PAGE 4



BRIGAND'S TRAIL

Fancy a visit to the den of forest brigand Veerappan? Just in case...

PAGE 6

As Bengaluru enthusiastically buys more and more private vehicles, experts and researchers decry lack of focus on enhancing public transport, too much emphasis on road infra

MY OTHER CAR IS A... GUZZLER TOO

53,538 private vehicles were registered in June, the highest so far this year

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Of late, Bengaluru has witnessed a steep surge in the registration of new private vehicles (cars and two-wheelers). According to new vehicle registration data from Karnataka Transport Department, the highest number of registrations this year happened in June. As many as 53,538 private vehicles were registered in the month, compared with 32,304 new private vehicle registrations in May, 35,908 cars and two-wheelers were registered in April, and 38,298 new registrations took place in March. While 35,568 new vehicles were registered in February, a little over 48,000 vehicles were registered in January this year.

Nearly 40,000 two-wheelers and 13,616 cars were registered in June.

Public transport experts and researchers blame this surge on the pitiable public transport system of the city followed by a mega push being given to road infrastructure

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 »

"Our decision-makers should start following laws and constitute the planning committee, appoint urban planners and transport planners to ensure that public transport systems and mass transit systems are planned well and are efficient

– Sandeep Anirudhan, civic activist

Composter in our backyard

Lane composters installed at Kumaraswamy Layout to help process wet waste from 40 households

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Two lane composters with 800 litres capacity each have been installed in Kumaraswamy Layout as a Circular Waste Solutions (CWS) project implemented by Saahas, an NGO that works in the field of waste management. The composters will help process wet waste received from 40 households in the vicinity. Similar lane composters are set to come up in Vasanthapura ward next.

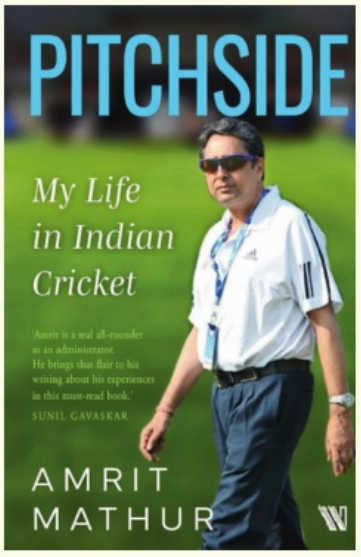
Dr Shanthi Tummala, the Project Consultant at Saahas and a sustainability expert, said the objective of the project is to instill a sense of responsibility towards waste from citizens. "We are not looking at reducing the quantity of waste yet but are hoping to change the mindset of people from 'not in my backyard' attitude," she said, adding that the majority of the public is often of the opinion that taking care of waste is a responsibility of the city's municipal body.

She explained that the lane composters have led to decentralisation and will divert close to 25-35 kg of wet waste from entering landfills. "By the end of a month, the composters would have diverted close to a ton of wet waste from entering anywhere else. Slowly, the residents may begin organic gardening on their terraces and will feed

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Book launch


PITCHSIDE
My Life in Indian Cricket
'Amrit is a real all-rounder as an administrator. He brings that flair to his writing about his experiences in this must-read book.'
SUNIL GAVASKAR
AMRIT MATHUR

Join the celebration of cricketing nostalgia with Amrit Mathur's book launch, 'Pitchside: My Life in Indian Cricket'. Engage in insightful conversations with legendary cricketer Anil Kumble and sports journalist Sharada Ugra, as they bring depth and perspective to the enthralling world of Indian cricket.
Where – Bangalore International Centre
When – 8 August, 6.30 pm

02 Harmony Jam

Watch out for the guitar music workshop by Mr Michael. Explore the art of music composition and songwriter.
Where – Dialogues Cafe, Koramangala
When – 11 August, 7 pm

03 Creative coasters

Learn the art of Coaster painting, creating beautiful landscapes on wooden coasters. A one-hour workshop for all who are enthusiastic about painting. All materials are included.
Where – Art Beat
When – 7 August – 25 September

In our prayers

A large number of citizens gathered during a meeting to pray for justice and peace in Manipur held at Don Bosco College grounds, at TC Palya on Sunday

Copy that? Drones to watch over SSLC exam

Education department's innovative method to curb any probable malpractice

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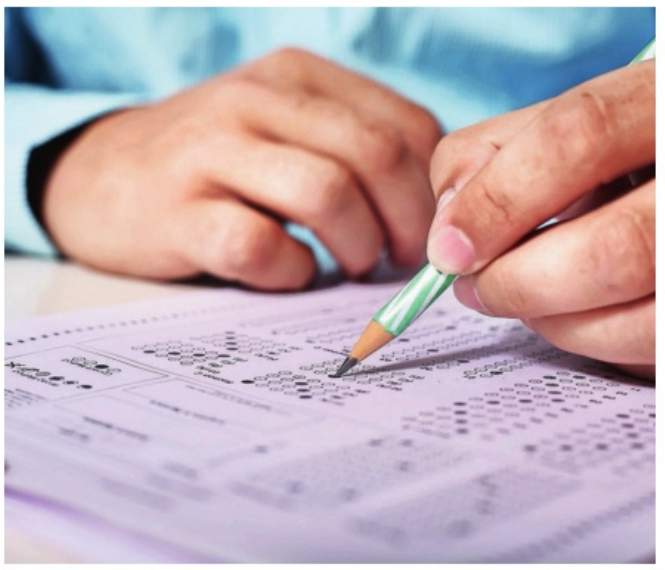
The education department is taking an unprecedented step by planning to deploy drone cameras for enhanced security during the upcoming SSLC exams.

These drones will be stationed above examination centres to closely monitor the surroundings and prevent any malpractice. This innovative initiative is part of a comprehensive plan to ensure a fair and secure examination environment.

During a recent meeting, a senior government official expressed concern over mass copying incidents in the SSLC exam. Around 38 teachers were suspended for aiding in mass copying as well. These kinds of incidents are usually reported from exam centres in North Karnataka, especially from Vijayapura, Yadgir, Belagavi, Bidar, and Chikkodi education divisions.

Officials from the Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board said, "Numerous foolproof measures can be taken, such as introducing four versions of question papers (A, B, C, and D) with QR codes, banning shoes for exams on the lines of NEET, and webcasting the process when the question paper and answer paper bundles are sealed or opened." An official said that this proactive measure aims to safeguard against potential irregularities or unauthorised entry. "Drone cameras will be temporarily installed at each examination centre on a rental basis, bolstering security and ensuring the sanctity of the examination environment by deterring copying."



Mass copying incidents have been reported in the past, especially from centres in North Karnataka

"In the latest meeting for the smooth conduct of the SSLC 2024 exams and to combat malpractice, it was decided that the tenth exams should follow the lines of NEET, with students not allowed to wear shoes," stated the minutes of the meeting.

Numerous measures were proposed during the meeting to ensure a smooth and secure examination process. "Firstly, examination centres at Hobli and Taluk levels will be thoughtfully selected to accommodate higher numbers of students. Furthermore, to enhance the examination process, it has been decided to conduct the exams on the first floor of these centres, providing improved arrangements and facilities for the students," an official explained.

> **"CCTV cameras with DVRs will be installed in every room of the examination centres to ensure accountability**
> -Exam & assessment board official

"To maintain the sanctity of the exams, strict regulations will be enforced concerning parental involvement during the 2023-24 academic year. Parents of students will not be permitted to participate in any examination-related activities, fostering a fair and unbiased environment for all candidates. Additionally, during examination hours, necessary action will be taken to close photocopier shops, mitigating the risk of question paper leakage and malpractices."

The education department is also trying to promote awareness among teachers and other stakeholders. "Awareness programs will be organized at taluk and school levels, educating teachers, parents, and students about the significance of exam integrity and the importance of preventing cheating or malpractice. This approach aims to foster a culture of honesty and uphold the value of fair assessments," said an official.

"To ensure transparency and accountability, CCTV cameras with DVRs will be installed in every room of the examination centres. DIET officials will have access to inspect the footage, enhancing monitoring and minimising the chances of any irregularities. Additionally, the process of opening and sealing question paper bundles at each examination centre will be webcast, further emphasizing transparency and credibility," the official added. "To maintain impartiality, strict action will be taken not to hire any staff from the same school at the examination centres," stated the official.

"Lastly, all teachers from each school will be required to register and participate in the evaluation process.

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PALASA

High Court warns, BBMP fails to act, city suffers

Banners have become nuisance, eyesore for pedestrians in city

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KAUSHIK JN

Banners put up by supporters of Home Minister G Parameshwara are dotting the city these days, including in front of the BBMP's head office

Despite repeated reminders from the Karnataka High Court, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has failed to address the issue of illegal flexes and banners, allowing these eyesores to persist on city roads and traffic junctions.

The High Court's recent warning to the State Government and the BBMP seems to have gone unheeded, leaving the city's landscape cluttered with political advertisements and causing frustration among residents and observers.

On August 2, the High Court warned the State Government and the BBMP of imposing a penalty of Rs 50,000 each for every illegal advertisement that comes up within BBMP's limits. However, neither the BBMP nor the State Government took any measures to remove the flexes and banners put up on the city roads.

Residents and environmentalists are left questioning BBMP as the city's Head Office fails to remove the banners and flexes displayed in front of its premises. The BBMP Head Office, KR Circle, and Town Hall Junction are adorned with large flexes celebrating the birthday of Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara, put up by his supporters.

Adding to the spectacle, Congress leaders from Tumkur district have travelled to Bengaluru to extend their birthday wishes to Dr G Parameshwara, who serves as the in-charge minister for Tumkur district. The presence of these banners raises concerns about the BBMP's ability to address the issue of illegal advertisements and their impact on the city's environment. "The flexes and banners put up by Dr G Parameshwara's supporters have become a nuisance and eyesore for pedestrians and motorists in the city. I, along with a few like-minded people, have decided to remove or tear the flexes and banners put up in the A Zone around Vidhana Soudha on Wednesday," said HM Venkatesh, a social activist.

GR Mohan, an advocate who filed a PIL in the High Court on illegal banners and flexes in the city, has said that he would bring the illegal banners and flexes put up at important junctions to the High Court's notice.

"The High Court has adjourned the hearing of the petition to August 30. I will produce photographs of illegal banners and posters in the court on August 30. I will request the honourable court to collect Rs 50,000 each from the State Government and the BBMP for each of the illegal posters and banners put up in the city," said GR Mohan.

> **"BBMP authorities either remove the illegal banners and flexes or legalise. If these are removed, Bengaluru city will be clean** – Mohan Dasari

BR Chandran, a social activist from Halasuru, has said the lack of cooperation or coordination between the BBMP authorities and the police is the main reason for the menace of illegal banners and flexes. "I have approached the police seeking action against those responsible for putting up banners and flexes illegally. The police told me that they cannot remove the flexes and banners as it is the responsibility of the BBMP authorities.

The police told me that they can register a First Information Report (FIR) against putting up banners and flexes illegally if the BBMP revenue officer lodges a complaint with them," said Chandran.

Blaming the BBMP authorities for the menace of flexes and banners in the city, Mohan Dasari has said that despite the High Court's direction to remove the illegal banners and flexes, the BBMP authorities are yet to take action. "I am of the opinion that the BBMP authorities either remove the illegal banners and flexes or legalise them. If the illegal banners and flexes are removed, Bengaluru City will be clean. If legalized, the BBMP will get revenue," said Mohan Dasari.

However, BBMP Special Commissioner (Revenue) Dr DL Deepak was not available for comment.

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Road ruckus

Kenchenahalli

Daily heavy vehicle movement on a small road at Kenchenahalli, Yelahanka railway gate, especially during peak hours, causes traffic woes and raises safety concerns for all.

Depth disaster

Bhattarahalli

The road has caved in at 13th cross, Vinayaka Layout, Bhattarahalli, with the collapse reaching the full depth.

Mass transit systems, need of the hour in Bengaluru city

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

projects. According to Prof Ashish Verma, convenor, IISc Sustainable Transportation (IST) Lab, unattractive end-to-end journeys using the existing public transport system and the slow pace of mass transit projects are encouraging people to look for personal mobility modes. He says infusing more road infrastructure is keeping the demand for personal mobility high.

"None of the metro lines has ever been completed on time. To add to that, all the corridors proposed under the suburban rail projects are terribly behind schedule. Infusion of MRTA infrastructure is at a snail's pace compared to fast-paced road infrastructure projects. Traffic congestion will only worsen with more private vehicles being added to the city roads. Moreover, a private vehicle user will never shift to a public mode of transport unless the end-to-end journey is attractive for them," said Prof Verma.

Experts also blame this surge on the lack of efficient backbone services and first and last-mile connectivity to existing public transport systems.

"BMTC should restrategise its routes on the city's arterial roads such as the Old Airport Road, Magadi Road, etc. In the absence of route rationalisation, most of the current routes are not efficient.

Apart from creating a strong trunk route or backbone routes of BMTC buses, feeder routes need to be strengthened too. The local hyper network of feeder buses should connect to the main transport network. The feeder service at the HSR metro station has to be replicated across the city," said civic activist Sandeep Anirudhan.

Bengaluru, with a short history of public transport, needs to increase the capacity and network of mass transit systems, says Srinivas Alavilli, a city-based public transport advocate.

"People buy private vehicles due to the poor public transport system. While the city is growing on its edges, with no increased capacity of public transport systems in these areas. Public transport is an essential service and the only antidote to the surge in private vehicles on city roads is to increase the capacity and network of mass transit systems," said Alavilli.

Indirect impacts

While the increase in travel time is a direct impact of a high number of private vehicles leading to traffic congestion on city roads, the list of indirect impacts is long. More private vehicles imply higher fossil fuel consumption leading to higher tailpipe emissions and thus worsened air quality.

"To add to that, in the quest to accommodate more personal vehicles, we are also squeezing pedestrian and social spaces across the city. We try to ape public transport solutions from other countries but fail to understand them in the context in which they were put in place," added Prof Verma.

Experts say the root cause of all this mayhem is lawlessness being practised by top decision-makers. They point to the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, which states that every metropolitan area shall have a metropolitan planning committee to prepare a draft development plan. Bengaluru has been devoid of this committee so far.

"We missed the opportunity over the last 30 years as we did not follow the Constitution and ignored the 74th amendment. Our decision-makers should start following laws and constitute the planning committee, appoint urban planners and transport planners to ensure that public transport systems and mass transit systems are planned well and are efficient. Once that is in place, we can look at formulating policies to discourage private vehicles," added Anirudhan.

Safety issues flagged as bus floorboard gives way

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Here's a new worry for BMTC bus passengers. After a series of fires, the latest mishap was when a portion of the BMTC bus's floorboard under the tyre burst open. However, according to officials, there were no casualties.

The floorboard of the low-floor Vajra AC BMTC bus burst open partially, but any other damage to the bus is as yet unknown.

According to BMTC officials, the incident happened on Saturday evening.

"We have taken note of the incident and the BMTC managing director has ordered that a report be submitted. Maybe the tyre burst open, but our engineering team is reviewing it. As per the preliminary investigation, the bus was stationed on Bannerghatta Road. We will get a report by Monday," said a BMTC official.

To ensure passenger safety, BMTC will also be conducting a detailed study on the affected bus to understand the root problem. This would be the first time such an incident has happened on BMTC buses.

However, safety concerns about BMTC buses have been raised in the past as well. Just last March, a BMTC bus caught on fire charring a conductor to death.

In April, a moving bus caught on fire near Basavanapura gate no passengers were harmed. In 2022, two incidents of fire mishaps were reported within 10 days.

Regular maintenance of BMTC buses is a must, experts say

The safety concerns come as a big blow to the brand BMTC with the success of the Shakthi scheme in Karnataka.

With city dwellers making a larger shift to public transport, safety concerns such as these pose a grave hindrance.

Bus activists feel that there is a need for regular maintenance of these buses.

"Vehicles that undergo rigorous use have to adhere to safety parameters. It could be possible that daily safety and quality checks have been skipped. Some of these buses are not even washed. It's also possible that these vehicles have reached their age for scrapping and are being continued to be used," said Sandeep Anirudhan, a bus activist.

Head counts: '70% accident victims are 2-wheeler riders'

Traffic cops' analysis shows most deaths due to lack of helmet or wearing it incorrectly

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More than 70% of road accident victims in the city over three years are two-wheeler riders, according to Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic) MN Anucheth.

Speaking before flagging off a bike-a-thon, a road safety driver organised by Surgical Society of Bangalore in association with Trustwell Hospitals here on Sunday, Anucheth said two-wheeler riders must wear helmets for their safety and certainly not because traffic cops catch them for not wearing a helmet. "We did an analysis of accidents that took place in the last three years. We realised that 70% of all two-wheeler riders' deaths are either lack of helmet or wearing non-ISI helmet or not wearing the chinstrap. It is very important to realise that safety is in our hands. Some two-wheeler riders do not wear helmets and some two-wheeler riders will be in a terrible hurry when the timer at the traffic junction shows a few seconds. We should follow road safety measures to save ourselves and not because the cops caught us. It is a wrong thing. I know some two-wheeler riders remove their helmets as soon as they come near a traffic junction. I want all of you to tell your near and dear ones to follow traffic rules," said the Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic).

> **"We should follow road safety measures to save ourselves and not because the cops caught us. It is a wrong thing. Some riders wear helmets only when cops are around** –MN Anucheth, Jt CP

He said that a majority of the road accident victims are those who have still not finished their high school education. "The need of the hour is to visit high schools to create awareness about the importance of road safety," he said.

Former cricketer Syed Kirmani said that following road safety is very important. "The media and social media must help create awareness among two-wheeler riders on the importance of using helmets. Two-wheeler riders should use a mobile phone by keeping it under the helmet. It is very important to take care of oneself. I appeal to two-wheeler riders to follow traffic norms," he said.

Dr HV Madhusudan, Director, Trustwell Hospital highlighted the importance of preventing brain injuries. "It is very important for two-wheeler riders to wear helmets irrespective of whether it is a long or short trip. Pillion riders too must wear helmets. Any road accident is devastating to any family and the best way to deal with it is to avoid it," Dr Madhusudhan said.

Surgical Society of India president Dr Venkatesh as the society completed 50 years, they organised the bike-a-thon to convey a message on road safety. The bike-a-thon event saw more than 200 participants.

Burglar & vehicle thief held

Talaghattapura police have arrested a man accused of house and vehicle theft. The man is said to have stolen gold and silver items from a house in the area. On August 2, police arrested a man at Electronic City and interrogated him. His arrest solved two cases : one two-wheeler theft and one house burglary. Gold articles weighing five grams, silver articles weighing about 160 grams, and the vehicles used by the accused, two two-wheelers, were seized. The total value of these two-wheelers is around Rs 2 lakh.

"It has come to light from the investigation that the accused is a habitual criminal and is constantly engaged in criminal activities to make a living. Earlier, two cases were registered against the accused in Basavanagudi Police Station, one in Tilak Nagar Police Station," said the police.

Bikes set afire

Drunk miscreants are said to have set a few bikes ablaze in Vasanth Nagar around 5 am on Sunday. Five bikes were gutted. A car parked next to the bikes also caught fire, but there is no major damage to it.

The scene of the miscreants walking on the road before committing the crime was captured on CCTV. Now the police are getting information from the locals to trace the men.

Police shoot at murder accused

Police shot at a man accused of murder as he tried to escape. Akash, 19, is accused of murdering a youth named Hemant on July 31. Police had traced him down but, when he tried to escape, Anekal Sub-Inspector Pradeep fired at his leg.

Veerappan's den to be turned into tourist spot

Green activists express concern: Will the eco-tourism plan balance conservation and tourism?

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Tents that look like igloos are a highlight of this forest trail in Gopinatham

While he was alive, forest brigand Veerappan was a thorn in the flesh of the state government. But now, it is trying to fill its coffers by milking his story. The forest department is planning to start a safari in the Gopinatham area, the former den of Veerappan, for the public. When Veerappan was active, people were scared to travel to these places. They were operated by either forest personnel or STF personnel involved in combing operations that went around the area. However, since Veerappan's death, there has been a curiosity among travellers to explore the place. Currently, there is a property belonging to Jungle Lodges and Resorts mystery trails camps. Only those staying in the camps are allowed to travel around the trails, but the public is barred. Now, the forest department is planning to allow the public to take up safari.

Dr Malathi Priya M, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests, Mysuru circle, said, "We are planning for a safari centre in Gopinatham, and the proposal is to allow the public. However, we are yet to chalk out the finer details. Soon, we will have a meeting with officials related to Cauvery wildlife sanctuary and discuss the feasibility of opening the safari trail and other facilities."

> **We are planning for a safari centre in Gopinatham, and the proposal is to allow the public. However, we are yet to chalk out the finer details. Planning to meet the officials related to Cauvery wildlife sanctuary**
>
> Dr Malathi Priya M, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests

The state forest department is revisiting the forest in a bid to turn Veerappan's former stronghold into one of the major attractions of its eco-tourism package. Earlier, the department even roped in ex-associates of the notorious smuggler for a 'Mystery Trail Camp' at his village, Gopinatham, in the Male Mahadeshwara hills (MM Hills) near the border of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. The camp was located between MM Hills and Hogenekkal Falls. It was built at a cost of Rs 1.3 crore to target wildlife enthusiasts, bird watchers, trekkers, and photographers who flock to MM Hills and Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary as the government has invoked the legend of Veerappan to attract tourists. The government-owned Jungle Lodges and Resorts (JLR) had come up with a program at Gopinatham, which was wound up due to poor response. Then another attempt was made by the forest department.

Sources said that the earlier attempt relied solely on word-of-mouth, and the officials had incorporated the best available facilities at the site. Facilities like tents that look like Igloos, the huts of Eskimos, which are not only rainproof but also capable of withstanding the harsh temperatures of this region, which is home to dense deciduous forests and shrubs. The forest department had made arrangements for water sports, like kayaking and coracle riding, bird watching, and mountain biking and tourists were treated to the native cuisine. "Earlier, a major attraction was a 17-km trek around Gopinatham village. It included a visit to the cremation site of IFS officer and Keerti Chakra recipient P Srinivas, who was beheaded by Veerappan in 1991. The memorial to Srinivas has been renovated by the department at a cost of Rs 1.5 lakh. The guides were former poachers and associates of Veerappan, who then served the forest department as anti-poaching staff. There were about 25 ex-poachers out of which six were in Veerappan's gang. These people were narrating stories from their time with Veerappan and gave insights into his modus operandi, like hiding essential items in the forest, keeping tabs on the movement of cops and animals, and demonstrating survival skills that were adopted during adverse weather conditions. Now, we believe that the forest department's proposed safari would be an unforgettable experience," said another forest official.

However, green activists are opposing the move stating that Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary should not be open to the public as it will affect the precious flora and fauna.

High Court halts illegal constructions in Whitefield

Whitefield residents approached the High Court against BBMP's inaction over illegal constructions happening in the area. The High Court issued a stay order over the constructions and Palike was forced to take action.

In yet another instance of citizens joining hands to make the mountains move, residents of Borewell Road filed a writ petition before High Court against BBMP officials for their inaction against illegal constructions happening in the area. The petitioners noted that the BBMP had not taken any action against illegal construction being carried out on Plot No. 5A and 6A to 6F on Borwell Road.

According to the petitioners, six individual and five-storey apartments have been built and the seventh one is in the process of construction. The building was being constructed using a plan sanction for ground plus two floors. Further, the minimum required setback was not left and illegal construction is flush along the walls of the petitioner's properties. In the writ petition, they requested the demolition of the constructed properties and withhold utilities.

In response, the High Court issued a stay order and restrained the respondents from putting up any further construction in plot 5A, Borwell Road, Whitefield. It also instructed BBMP to inspect the violations and submit a report.

Further, Palike officials visited the site and during inspection discovered that the buildings were being constructed contrary to the sanctioned plan. Noting the violations, BBMP instructed the illegal portion of the buildings to be cleared and gave 15 days to comply as per Section 248(1) of the BBMP Act 2020.

-Melvin Mathew

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

No Hindi only Kannada

In a recent press interaction which happened in Delhi last week, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah told journalists that he would only be able to answer questions in Kannada, while his deputy DK Shivakumar would address the press in English. When he mentioned his inability to speak in Hindi, AICC in-charge Randeep Surjewala said, "Nowadays, Mr Siddaramaiah also understands a little bit of Hindi." Reacting to this, Siddaramaiah admitted that it was confirmed that he can understand Hindi, but he would not be able to speak in the language as he was not comfortable expressing himself in Hindi.

Night calls from students

Guess who has been calling the Dakshina Kannada Deputy Commissioner Mullai Muhilan in the night? School Children. They called him to grant a holiday due to heavy rainfall in the region, as their neighbouring districts had already declared. Muhilan said, "Whenever we thought of declaring a holiday, it stopped raining, hence we decided not to grant one. Many schoolchildren would call me up until 4 am and as it is the rainy season, I have the habit of answering calls. However, most of the callers were students. One of the students even said, "It is raining heavily in front of my school, and why don't you give us a holiday?"

Train: Happy Birthday!

Birthdays are a usual celebration, but how about having one for a train? That fortunate train is the Tumakuru-Bengaluru morning train, now marking its 10th anniversary. Recently, a special program was organised

by the regular commuters to commemorate the occasion. It was completed with a birthday cake-cutting ceremony. The event was attended by the train's pilot, guards, and other officials. Commuters expressed their gratitude, stating that the train has been their lifeline since its launch on August 3, 2013, thanks to their persistent demands that led to its operation.

Stinking hostel rooms

Siddaramaiah paid a visit to a girls' hostel in Udupi recently. During his visit, he asked the authorities why the room was stinking. He immediately summoned the warden and told him that it was his duty to ensure that the hostels are kept clean. He then asked a girl from the hostel if she could smell the stink. The girl refused to admit the smell. The CM surprisingly asked, "If I can smell with cold, why can't you? Is it that you are afraid of the warden hence not revealing anything? " In reply, the girl said, " The stink may be from the soaking wet clothes in the room."

High jump to secure entry

The guarantee schemes have become a crowd-puller. The Shakti scheme's initial days witnessed buses filled with women passengers, some even resorting to boarding the bus through windows or the driver's cabin. The new Gruha Lakshmi scheme has sparked a similar surge in interest. Women are seen standing in long queues to become eligible for the scheme. In a recent incident from Pavagada, a woman couldn't wait for her turn and took a daring jump across a seven-feet-tall compound to secure entry into a bank so that her bank account can be linked with an Aadhaar card.

-Sridhar Vivan

Love is a losing game

Online romance scams: Research reveals scammers' tactics – and how to defend against them

In the Netflix documentary "The Tinder Swindler," victims exposed notorious con artist Simon Leviev, who posed as a wealthy diamond mogul on the popular dating app Tinder to deceive and scam numerous women out of millions of dollars.

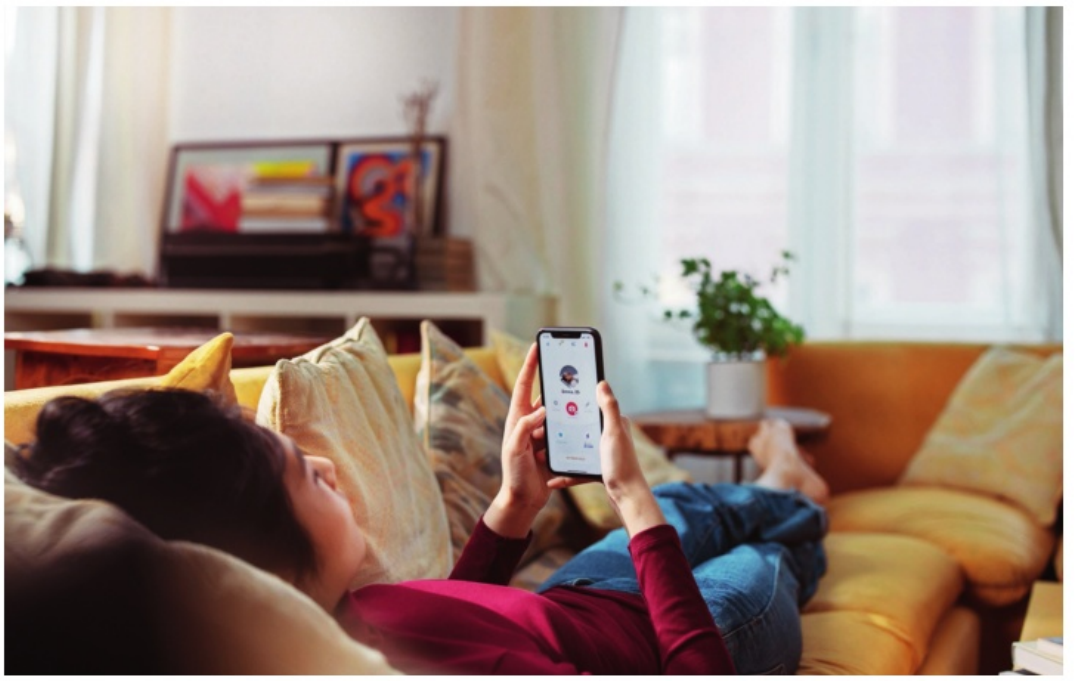
Leviev is a flashy example of a dating scammer, but criminal operations also prey on emotionally vulnerable people to gain their trust and exploit them financially.

The internet has revolutionised dating, and there has been a surge in US adults using apps to find ideal matches post-pandemic.

While these apps offer convenience for connecting with romantic partners, they also open the door to online romance scams. Criminals create both deceptive profiles and urgent scenarios to carry out the scam.

Online romance scams exploit people through calculated online social engineering and deliberately deceptive communication tactics.

In a series of research projects, my colleagues from Georgia State University, University of Alabama, University of South Florida and I focused on understanding how scammers operate, the cues that may prompt changes in their tactics and what measures people can take to defend themselves against falling victim to this scam.



How e-romantic scams work

Online romance scams are not coincidental. They're carefully planned schemes that follow distinct stages. Research has identified five stages:

- Baiting victims with attractive profiles.
- Grooming victims with intimacy.
- Creating crises to extract money.
- On occasion manipulating victims with blackmail.

Revealing the scam

In short, scammers do not swindle victims by chance. They plan their actions in advance, patiently following their playbooks to ensure profitable outcomes. Scammers worm their way into a victim's heart to gain access to their money through false pretenses.

In a previous study, my colleague Volkan Topalli and I analysed victim testimonials from the website stop-scammers.com.

Our research revealed scammers' use of various social engineering techniques and crisis stories to prompt urgent requests.

Scammers leveraged social norms, guilt and supposed emergencies to manipulate victims.

Scammers also paid close attention to communication patterns and adapted their tactics based on victims' responses. This interplay significantly influenced the overall operation of the scam.

Across the globe, online romance scammers use different techniques that vary across cultures to successfully defraud victims. In my recent research, for example, I looked closely into an online romance scam in China called "Sha Zhu Pan," which loosely translates to "Pig Butchering Scam."

In Sha Zhu Pan, scammers bait and groom victims for financial exploitation through well-structured group setups.

Multiple scammers across four groups – hosts, resources, IT and money laundering – persuade victims through romantic tactics to invest in fake apps or use fake gambling websites, convincing them to pay more and more without ever receiving their money back.

Hosts interact with victims, resources members identify targets and collect information about them, IT creates the fake apps and websites, and the money launderers process the ill-gotten gains.

> **"Scammers leveraged social norms, guilt and supposed emergencies to manipulate victims. They also paid close attention to communication patterns to adapt tactics based on victims' responses**

Carrort & stick

Like street robbers, online romance scammers can be influenced both positively and negatively by a range of situational cues that serve as incentives or deterrents.

Our investigation showed that deterrent messages can significantly affect scammers' behavior.

Here's an example of a deterrent message: "I know you are scamming innocent people. My friend was recently arrested for the same offense and is facing five years in prison. You should stop before you face the same fate."

Based on live conversations with active scammers online, our recent analysis suggests that receiving deterrent messages reduced scammers' response rate and their use of certain words, and increased the likelihood that when they sought further communications, they admitted they had done something wrong.

Our observations indicate that scammers not only diversify their approaches to prompt more responses, such as appealing to their romantic relationships, asking for identifying information and requesting victims switch to private chat platforms, but they also use several techniques for getting victims to overcome their misgivings about sending the scammers more money.

For example, scammers subtly persuade victims to see themselves as holding more power in the interaction than they do.

Block scammers

There are methods that could help users defend against online romance scams.

In experimental findings, my colleagues and I suggest online apps, especially dating apps, implement warning messages.

An example would be applying linguistics algorithms to identify keywords like "money," "MoneyGram" and "bank" in conversations to alert potential victims of the scam and deter scammers from engaging further. In addition, apps can use tools to detect counterfeit profile pictures and other types of image fraud. By concentrating on identifying scammers' use of counterfeit profile pictures, this advanced algorithm holds the potential to preemptively hinder scammers from establishing fake profiles and initiating conversations from the outset.

Self-protection

Online dating app users can take precautions when talking to strangers. There are five rules to steer clear of scammers:

Avoid sharing financial information with or sending money to strangers.

Refrain from sending private photos to strangers.

Use image and name-reverse searches.

Confide in family and friends if you grow suspicious.

One last piece of advice: Don't blame yourself. Take the courageous step of breaking free from the scam and seek support.

(Fangzhou Wang, University of Texas at Arlington, The Conversation)

BITS & BYTES

TECH BROS' FACE/OFF

Elon Musk's latest posts are proof of his brewing rivalry with Meta founder Mark Zuckerberg. X CEO tweeted, "Am lifting weights throughout the day, preparing for the fight. Don't have time to work out, so I just bring them to work."

This was followed by another tweet directly pointing out at Zuckerberg.

He wrote, "Zuck v Musk fight will be live-streamed on X. All proceeds will go to charity for veterans."

The tension between the two escalated notably since the introduction of the Threads app. **ANI**

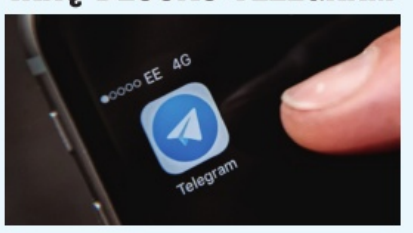
NEW AVATAR

Meta-owned messaging platform WhatsApp is rolling out an animated avatar feature on iOS beta.

Users have to open the keyboard and select the avatar tab to check whether the feature is enabled for their account, reports WABetainfo.

Beta users will then see some animations for certain avatars. Users can share the animated avatars with anyone as it is not required to use the beta version to be able to receive them. "In addition, only a limited number of stickers are animated, but we expect that WhatsApp may offer an animated version of the entire avatar pack over time," the report said. The animated avatars are expected to bring more life and personality to stickers. **IANS**

IRAQ BLOCKS TELEGRAM



Iraq's telecoms ministry said it has blocked the Telegram messaging app over national security concerns and in order to preserve the integrity of users' personal data, which it said the app had mishandled. The app is widely used in Iraq for messaging but also as a source of news and for sharing content.

Some channels contain large amounts of personal data including the names, addresses and family ties of Iraqis. The ministry said in a statement it had asked the app to close down "platforms that leak the data of the state institutions and the personal data of citizens... but the company did not respond and did not interact with any of these requests." **Reuters**

Initiative to help citizens clean up after themselves

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

their soil with compost. The whole loop – transportation of waste as well as fresh produce – will come to a halt and be closed," she said.

Tummala said such a project was first implemented in HSR Layout and received a positive response. Regular designated garbage collectors are assigned to handle the process of composting. "This (composting) will not be a burden on them. Whatever wet waste they usually collect from houses will now be put into a drum.

Lane composters installed in Kumaraswamy layout as a Circular Waste Solutions (CWS) project implemented by Saahas

It will then be added to browns and coco peat, and put into the composter. It is 10 minutes of effort," she explained.

Savita Hiremath, a member of Solid Waste Management Round Table (SWMRT) and author of 'Endlessly Green: Solid Waste Management for Everyone', said that communities with close to 40 houses can adopt the lane composting method with ease to reduce the burden of solid waste. "Two to three composters will be enough for houses spanning two lanes. These will also last close to 10-15 years," she said, adding that the method is effective and not tedious.

"The initiative will fail only if it is not being run properly. With the assistance from NGOs, the right kind of infrastructure can be chosen and the volunteers or designated workers can be trained with the right knowledge," she said. She explained that the method is efficient as the waste collected will be processed within the layout itself and suggested that the compost generated can be used to enrich local parks too.

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I Mani Kumara S K S/O, Krishna S V R/o 3(30) Munikrishna Shankar Building, Hosur Main Road, Hebbagodi Village, Kammasandra Area, Bangalore 560100 have changed my name to Mani Kumar S K.

I, MAZHAR, R/a #13/1st Cross, Chinnapa Garden, Benson Town, Bangalore -46. I, have changed my name to , SHAIKH MAZHAR, Vide affidavit, dated 02/08/2023 Sworn before Notary M. Rajendra Bangalore

I Madeeha Hussain W/O, Kaleem Hussain R/o 24/b, 2nd Floor, 4th Block 7th Main Rajajinagar Bangalore 560010 have changed my name to Madeeha A.

LOST & FOUND

I Amit Kumar R/0 D227 SLS SQUARE APT, WHITEFIELD, BANGALORE have lost my SBI Life Insurance Policy#1N388134006. Lost Report No.0669068/2023

I Amita Nayak W/O, Pravin Subaschandra Bhandarkar R/o 908 G R Pinnacle. Kanakapura Road Sarraki Signal Jp Nagar 1 St Phase Bangalore 560078 have changed my name to Amita Pravin Bhandarkar

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GET NOTICED

GALLERIA

HEALTH TIP: Prebiotics are certain types of fibre that are frequently found in plants and encourage the growth of beneficial bacteria in the gut

Beetroot contains iron, essential for the formation of haemoglobin and enzymes, transporting oxygen to parts of the body, and aiding cell growth and liver function

It's all in the head

Everything you need to know about types of headaches

Having a headache can definitely put a damper on your plans, but as painful as they can get, they are very common. As per the World Health Organization, having a headache over 14 days every month affects 1.7–4% of adults globally! Of course, the types of headaches vary, and depending on the cause and severity, have to be treated accordingly. Find out more in this article!

What Causes Headaches?
Headaches can be caused due to external factors or underlying health conditions.

Illness: Headaches are commonly associated with conditions like sinusitis, ear or throat infections, colds, and fever.

Stress: Stress can trigger a headache or make one worse. This is a common factor for headaches in kids and young adults.

Environment: Certain environmental changes like flickering lights, bright sunlight, barometric pressure change, strong odours, or air quality can trigger headaches.

Genetics: Variations in genes are associated with the development of migraines, impacting individuals differently.

Tip: Headaches are pretty common but of various types depending on the cause.

Types Of Headaches

When you get a headache, the blood vessels or muscles go through changes like tightening or swelling, putting pressure on the surrounding nerves. These nerves then send pain messages to the brain, which results in a headache. A lot of factors are at play, which leads to different types of headaches.

Primary Headaches

In a primary headache, there is no underlying cause. This type of headache is often caused by overactivity of pain-sensitive structures in the head.

Secondary Headaches

Secondary headache is always the result of another health condition, leading to inflammation of or traction on pain-sensitive structures.

Tip: If you experience frequent headaches, see your doctor for an accurate diagnosis.

> **When you get a headache, the blood vessels or muscles go through changes like tightening, putting pressure on the surrounding nerves**

Types Of Primary Headaches

Primary headaches are further of the following types.

1. Cluster Headache
This occurs in cyclical patterns, known as cluster periods. A cluster headache is one of the most painful types of headaches, waking you up with intense pain on one side of your head.

2. Migraine
Migraines cause severe pulsing sensations or throbbing pain on one side of the head. Pain is often accompanied by extreme sensitivity to light and sound, nausea, and vomiting.

3. Tension Headache
This creates a dull, aching pain in the head, feelings of tightness or pressure on the back, and sides of the head or across the forehead. Tenderness in the neck and shoulder muscles is also common.

4. Ice Pick Headache
This kind of headache is not a common occurrence. Pain starts unexpectedly, lasting only a few seconds, but is sudden and sharp, equated with the feeling of being stabbed in the head with an ice pick.

5. Hemicrania Continua
This is a chronic headache distinguished by continuous pain varying in severity. This headache always occurs on the same side of the head and face, with additional symptoms like runny nose, nasal congestion, nausea, vomiting, eye pain, drooping eyelid, etc.

6. Thunderclap Headache
This is a severe headache with pain peaking within 60 seconds. While uncommon, this type of headache is associated with bleeding in and around the brain, which can be fatal.

Tip: If you regularly experience a headache similar to the types mentioned here, see a doctor for an expert opinion.

Types Of Secondary Headaches

Secondary headaches can occur due to various reasons and are categorised accordingly.

7. Sinus Headache
This is associated with migraines or other kinds of headaches, creating pain and pressure in the face and sinuses, and nasal symptoms. Most of the time, this headache is not caused by a sinus infection.

8. Spinal Headache
This is brought on by leakage of spinal fluid through a puncture in the membrane surrounding the spinal cord. The pressure exerted by the spinal fluid on the spinal cord and brain decreases, causing a headache.

9. Caffeine Headache
Caffeine narrows the blood vessels surrounding the brain. The vessels enlarge when caffeine consumption is stopped, causing increased blood flow around the brain, pressurising the surrounding nerves. This is what triggers a caffeine withdrawal headache.

10. Dehydration Headache
This headache occurs when you're dehydrated and usually stops a while after you drink water and rest. Pain can be felt on the front or back of the head, sides, or all over.

11. Hangover Headaches
This is a throbbing or pulsing pain felt on both sides of the head and forehead. Any kind of physical activity worsens the pain. It is brought on by drinking alcohol, which can lower blood sugar levels, forcing the brain to function without enough of its primary fuel.

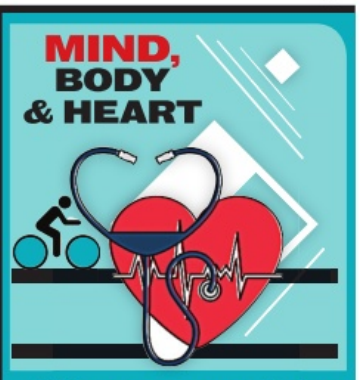
12. Exertion Headache
Also called an exercise headache, this form of headache features pain during or immediately after intense physical activity. Pain comes on quickly and goes away after a few minutes or hours, but it can also last for a couple of days.

13. Hormone Headache
Fluctuation in estrogen levels, like around the time of your menstrual cycle or the start of menopause or as a result of undergoing hysterectomy can trigger a headache. When with periods, these are also called menstrual migraines.

14. Post-traumatic Headaches
A post-traumatic headache (PTH) occurs after head injury, owing to tensing of muscles or narrowing of blood vessels which prevents normal blood flow to the head. Moderate to severe pulsating pain may be accompanied by nausea and vomiting.

Tip: Make sure you take note of the symptoms you develop so that the root cause can be diagnosed and addressed accurately.

by Kalwyna Rathod, Femina



All you need to know about...

Kidney stones

Prevalence of kidney stones
Kidney stones impact 7 per cent to 15 per cent of the population in North America, 5 per cent to 9 per cent of the population in Europe, and 1 per cent to 5 per cent of the population in Asia.

Symptoms
Common symptoms include severe pain, nausea, vomiting, fever, chills, and bloody urine.
However, kidney stones can cause infections, swelling of the kidneys (hydronephrosis), renal insufficiency, and end-stage renal disease in addition to lowering quality of life.

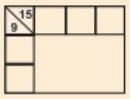
Risk factors
Obesity, chronic diarrhoea, dehydration, and inflammatory bowel disease, diabetes, or gout are all known risk factors for kidney stones.

Sugar added to risk factors list
A new study published in Frontiers in Nutrition suggests that increased consumption of added sugars should be added to the list of risk factors for kidney stones for the first time. Added sugars can be found in a variety of processed foods, but they are particularly prevalent in sugar-sweetened sodas, fruit drinks, candies, ice cream, cakes, and cookies.

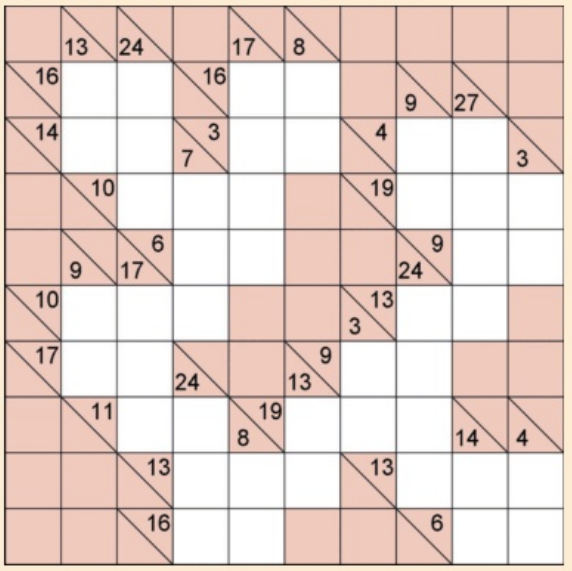
Further studies called for
The mechanisms of the relation between consuming more added sugars and a greater risk of developing kidney stones is not yet known. Because this was an uncontrolled observational trial, it can't yet be ruled out that unknown confounding factors might drive this association. "Further studies are needed to explore the association between added sugar and various diseases or pathological conditions in detail," cautioned the researcher. "For example, what types of kidney stones are most associated with added sugar intake?" —ANI

Kakuro

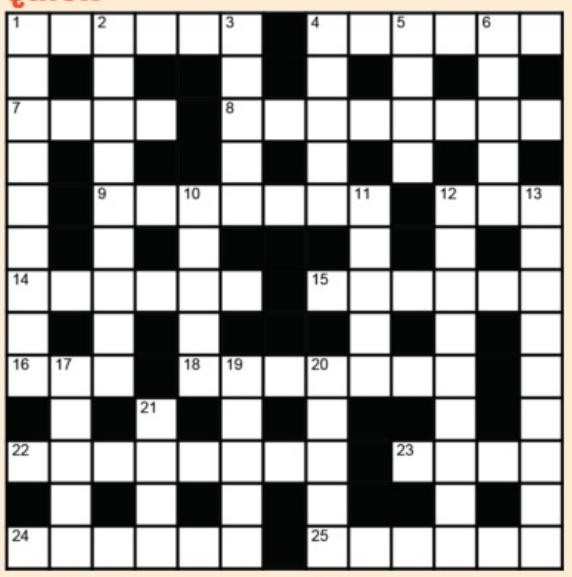
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Preserve in vinegar (6)
4 Available if needed (2,4)
7 To play roughly (4)
8 ___ motive : the underlying motive? (8)
9 ___ Building: Skyscraper on M G Road (7)
12 Jinx or curse (3)
14 Frozen finger of liquid (6)
15 Win a foot-race (6)
16 Likely, suitable or appropriate (3)
18 Import illegally (7)
22 Accelerates (6,2)
23 __ __ cost : free? (2,2)
24 Like a curved gateway (6)
25 Opposed to (6)

DOWN

1 For each individual (3,6)
2 Extreme Leftist (9)
3 At par; proportionate (5)
4 Group of eight (5)
5 Short (4)
6 Not tight (5)
10 Lazes (5)
11 Of tender years (5)
12 Farm equipment (9)
13 One disliking abroad (9)
17 Writing material (5)
19 Pondered in silence (5)
20 N Indian dynasty (A.D. 320 to 540) (5)
21 Interlacing network (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: F EQUALS W

FWNI FN KYJN YIN ZKNJJOIV, DIYAWNB OJ YMANI, QYJA XINTENRANSKL, VOHNI OI OAJ EKDRN.

Linemaro

Is there an airport nearby or is that just my heart taking off?

Mindchow

Education costs money. But then so does ignorance.

Joke of the day

Teacher: "Did your father help you with your homework?" Student: "No, he did it all by himself."

Loop

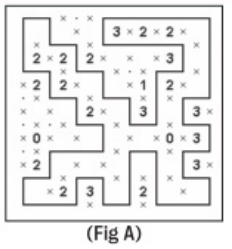
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

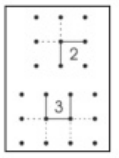
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

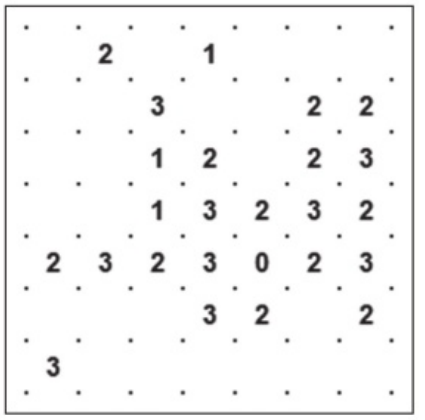
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



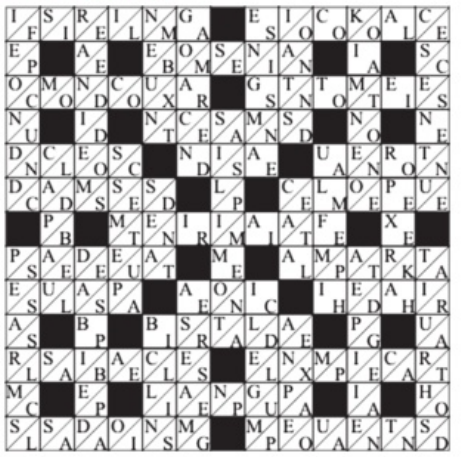
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



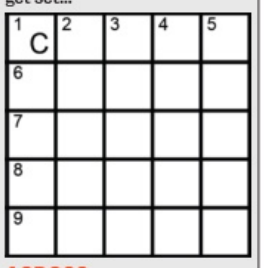
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

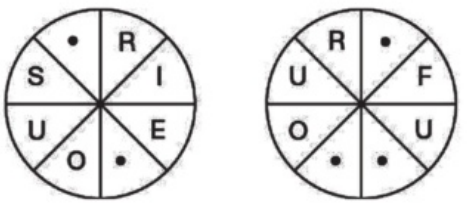
1 Sir BC; 6 Siren; 7 Oasis; 8 N Huck; 9 Gees I

DOWN

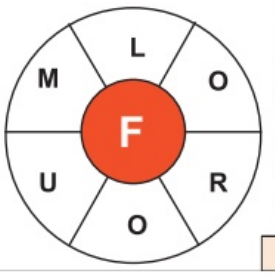
1 Or CCs; 2 Irish; 3 Sues I; 4 Begin; 5 Skean

Mensapuzzle

Fill in the blanks and find two words that are synonyms.



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

08 Average; **09** Good; **11** Outstanding

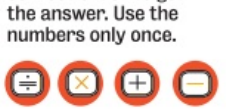
SudokuChallenge

6			4		2			9
7	4	9				5	2	8
8			2	4	1			5
		1				6		
5			8	6	9			3
9	2	3				1	5	7
4			5		3			2

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Easy = 3

3 4 5 5

Medium = 9

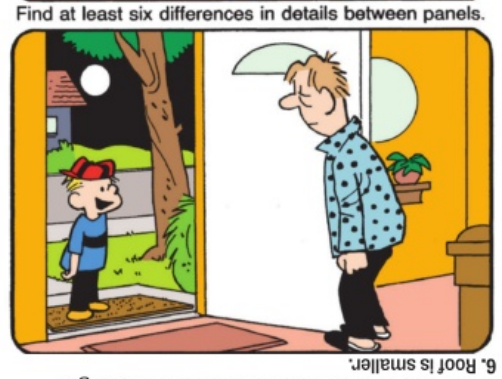
3 6 8 9

Hard = 26

5 8 8 5

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



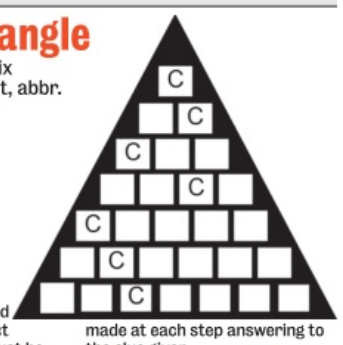
Differences: 1. Moon is moved. 2. Cap is different. 3. Mirror is smaller. 4. Mat is wider. 5. Arm is longer. 6. Roof is smaller.

Riddler

Customer services at RightWrite headquarters received the following letter recently. Luckily their top puzzle solvers were able to determine the meaning and help Mrs Miggins. Can you work it out what her problem was? Da S, ld lk cmlan ab h f m . hs ls aa n k ccl. As can s, hs ls a mssng fm hs dcmn. ld b v gafl f cld cc hs blm fhh. Man hanks, Ms Mggns.

Alpha triangle

1 Atomic number Six
2 Integrated Circuit, abbr.
3 Letter before psi
4 Advance slowly
5 Linked series
6 Hurting
7 Spanning



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

MAYBE I JUST DON'T HAVE A GREEN THUMB... NOTHING SEEMS TO BE GROWING
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO WATER A ROCK GARDEN?
Mel Casson

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

SURPRISE! HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
OMG!
HOW COME NONE OF YOU HAVE THROWN ME A SURPRISE BIRTHDAY PARTY?
I JUST MET YOU!
FAIR ENOUGH.
THE REST OF YOU HAVE NO EXCUSE!
@COMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft

THE NEWSPAPER ON MY PHONE IS SO SMALL, I CAN HARDLY READ IT!
AND NOT ONLY THAT...
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO FILL OUT THE JUMBLE!?
BATLIK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today you may be polite with the people around you. Many problems may likely be resolved with your way of speaking. There may be some control between savings and expenditure, which may boost your savings. You may spend on buying some creative stuff to renovate your house.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you are advised to control your way of speaking with your family. Your loose talks may affect your family harmony. You may tend to spend your hard-earned money on buying some worthless stuff to maintain your social status but it is advised to keep your money safe in your pocket, instead of spending it. You may face health problems related to ears, teeth and throat problems.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today is a good day for you. You have good vitality and health. Enjoy your work, domestic life will also be good. Healthy partnerships will give you benefits in terms of business. Job seekers will find suitable jobs. Love birds shall avoid discussions on self-respect issues.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today you must control your way of speaking. Be careful in terms of hidden enemies and opponents. You may be a victim of a conspiracy. It is advised to avoid making investments in risky assets. You must avoid lending money to anyone, it may not be easily recoverable. To stay away from such stress it is advised to do meditation and yoga.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today you will be a victim of negative thoughts. Impatient nature and arrogance will push you back from taking tough decisions. You will be in need of the blessing of your elders, which will help you grow in your work. Avoid making investments in dead assets. Love birds shall avoid discussing bad moments.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today you are in the winning position from your opponents and hidden enemies. Your money which was stuck may be recovered today. You may perform best at work. Today is an important day for love birds and singles to take important decisions in terms of marriage.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today is a good day for you. Last week's crunch is over now. You may initiate your postponed projects. You may get a reward for your hard work, which may boost your confidence. There are some gains in your business which may boost your finances. Natives related to export and import, fashions, and dairy products may do better.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may feel dull, you may have health issues. Overworking your mind may make you tired. It may also affect your domestic harmony. You may arrive late for a social or family get-together. Losses may be possible in the business. It is advised not to invest in new business. Love birds shall avoid getting involved in controversies.

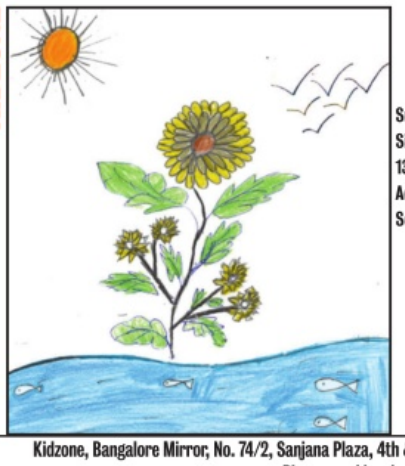
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today you are blessed by the moon, you may make new plans in terms of business. Your colleagues may be with you to implement your plans. You may recover your money from your clients, which may boost liquidity in the business. In the late evening, you may feel some depression which may affect your sound sleep.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today you have control over your opponents and hidden enemies. Decisions in legal matters may come in your favour. Your seniors may be happy because of your hard work, you may get new responsibilities in terms of promotion. Singles may find soul mates.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today you may be happy, you may also plan to buy some creative stuff, which may improve your lifestyle. You may also spend on your friends and family members. You can plan to make investments in assets. Singles may have a good match, love birds may enjoy their important moments.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may be seeking peace of mind and the moon's blessings may help you to focus on yourself. Investments in property and other assets are advised to avoid. You may have some happy moments in your domestic life, but it is advised to avoid arrogance and ego with your spouse. Disputes with the business partner are likely to be resolved.

KIDZONE



Suraj Sinde, 13 Years, Adarsha School

Likhith Raj, 11 Years, Florence High School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru- 560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

RIDDLER The letter was written on a typewriter which has a problem with the top row of letters – they did not print. The letter should have read: Dear Sir, I would like to complain about the top row of my typewriter. These letters appear not to work correctly. As you can see, these letters are missing from this document. I would be very grateful if you could correct this problem forthwith. Many thanks, Mrs Miggins.

BULL'S EYE
floor, flour, fool
form, forum,
foul, four, from,
fuel, roof,
ROOMFUL

FAST FIVE

C	R	I	B	S
H	U	N	K	
O	S	S	I	A
R	I	S	E	N
	S	I	E	G

STRIKE OUT

S	A	D	I	S	M		M	O	U	N	T	S		
	P	A	D	U	A		E		A	P	A	R	T	
	S	L	A	P		A	N	I		H	E	A	R	
	A		B		T	E	R	M	I	T	E		E	
	D	A	M	E	S		L		E	L	O	P	E	
	N	C	O	S		D	I	A		A	N	O	N	
	C	O	D		T	E	A	M	S		O		E	
	C	O	N	C	U	R		G	N	O	M	E	S	
	R	O	M	P		U	L	T	E	R	I	O	R	
	E		O		C		U		O					
	C		M		A		E		T		S			
	A		U	T	I	L	I	T	Y		H	E	X	
	P		N		D			O			A		E	
	I	C	I	C	L	E		O	U	T	R	U	N	
	A	P	T		S	M	U	G	G	L	E		P	
	A		M		U		S						H	
	S	P	E	E	D	S	U	P		A	T	N	O	
	E		S		E		T				E		B	
	A	R	C	H	E	D		A	V	E	R	S	E	

QUICK

P	I	C	K	L	E		O	N	C	A	L	L		
E		O		O		C		U		O				
R	O	M	P		U	L	T	E	R	I	O	R		
C		M		A		E		T		S				
A		U	T	I	L	I	T	Y		H	E	X		
P		N		D			O			A		E		
I	C	I	C	L	E		O	U	T	R	U	N		
A	P	T		S	M	U	G	G	L	E		P		
A		M		U		S						H		
S	P	E	E	D	S	U	P		A	T	N	O		
E		S		E		T				E		B		
A	R	C	H	E	D		A	V	E	R	S	E		

MENSA PUZZLE
GRIEVOUS, MOURNFUL

SOLVE IN 1M
[7(2)²+5i-4i] = [28+96] = 124

QUOTE UNCODE
When we lose one blessing, another is often, most unexpectedly, given in its place.

SUDOKU

3	5	2	7	9	8	4	6	1
6	1	8	4	5	2	7	3	9
7	4	9	1	3	6	5	2	8
8	3	6	2	4	1	9	7	5
2	9	1	3	7	5	6	8	4
5	7	4	8	6	9	2	1	3
9	2	3	6	8	4	1	5	7
4	6	7	5	1	3	8	9	2
1	8	5	9	2	7	3	4	6

ALPHA TRIANGLE
C, IC, Chi, Inch,
Chain, Aching,
Arching.

GO FIGURE
5 + 5 – 4 – 3 = 3
Easy
3 + 6 – 8 x 9 = 9
Medium
5 + 8 + 5 + 8 = 26
Hard

LOOP

KAKURO

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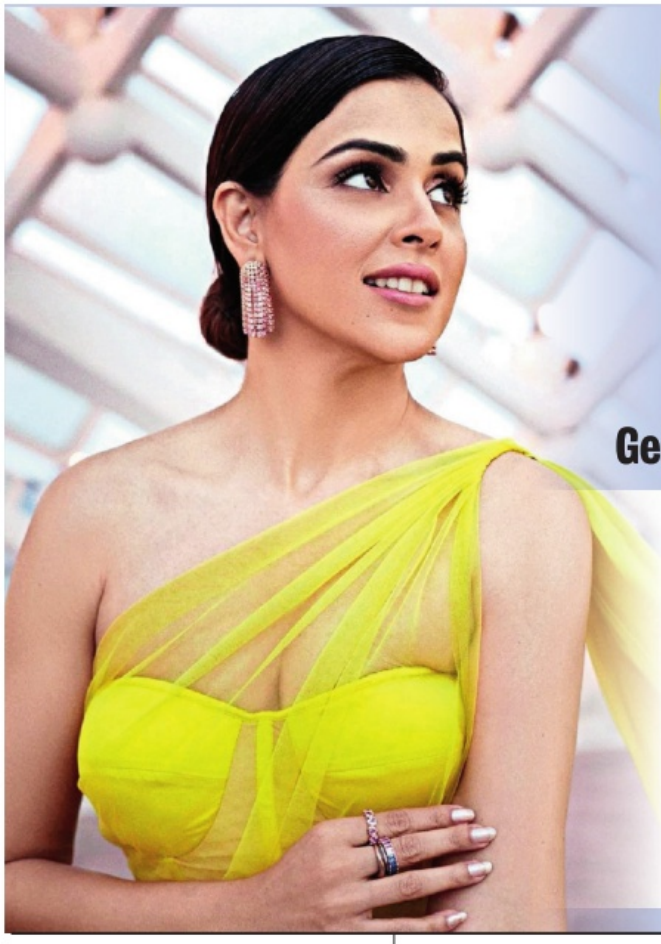
 # Goodwill gesture nudge
Bomman, Bellie send legal notice asking for Rs 2 cr as 'goodwill gesture' from Elephant Whisperers' director



On second thoughts

Genelia on the one film that almost got away

Bollywood actress Genelia D'Souza's cult classic blockbuster film 'Jaane Tu Ya Jaane Na' completed 15 years on July 3. But did you know that Genelia declined the 'Jaane Tu Ya Jaane Na' offer initially? Yes, you read it right!

In an interview with the news portal, Genelia revealed that initially, the film was supposed to be produced by Jhamu Sugandh, but when she was chosen, she couldn't accommodate the shooting schedule and had to decline the offer. The 'Tujhe Meri Kasam' actress also went on to say that around 300-400 girls auditioned for the film, and after a long wait, she was selected for the character. The actress further added that she received another call for auditions for 'Jaane Tu Ya Jaane Na'. At first, she couldn't recall if it was the same film she had auditioned for before. Genelia further added that later when she discovered that the producers, Mansoor Khan and Aamir Khan, found her clip from the previous audition. After auditioning numerous girls, Genelia eventually secured the role in the film. **–ETimes**

Invite from Royalty

Bollywood actress Tara Sutaria has been invited by the Majesty of Bhutan to attend the Drukyul's Literature Festival to celebrate music, dance & film at Bhutan Echoes.

Tara has been invited by the queen mother of Bhutan to discuss her journey and the importance of arts along with celebrating music, dance and film at Bhutan Echoes.

Tara feels truly humbled and honoured to accept the invitation by the Royal family of Bhutan and attend the prestigious literary festival representing her country.

Bhutan Echoes is a not-for-profit organisation that coordinates and produces events to promote literature, culture, and art in Bhutan and culminating in the Drukyul's Literature Festival, an annual international literary festival held in Bhutan. Her Majesty the Queen Mother of Bhutan, Gyalyum Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck is the Chief Patron of Bhutan Echoes: Drukyul's Literature Festival.

Meanwhile, Tara will next be seen in 'Apurva', and the actress is looking forward to the film as she believes that the story of a survival thriller is one of the most interesting subjects that challenge her as a performer. **–IANS**

Nail the selfie

Take a look at all the different moods of Mrunal Thakur as seen through a selfie gallery of the actress

Watch this story come alive on your device by scanning this QR code

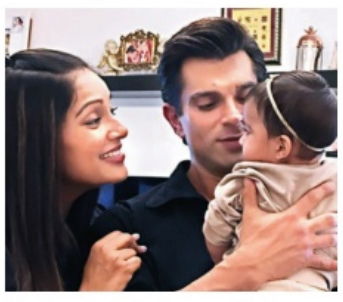
Bipasha's little one underwent open-heart surgery at 3 months old

Actor Bipasha Basu has said her daughter Devi was born with a ventricular septal defect and underwent an open-heart surgery when she was three months old.

Basu welcomed her first child with husband-actor Karan Singh Grover in November 2022.

In an Instagram Live session with actor Neha Dhupia on Saturday, Basu said three days after she gave birth, the doctors told her that the child was born with two holes in her heart.

"Our journey has been different from any normal mother-father, it has been a lot tougher than the smile that I have on my face right now... I got to know on the third day of me having a baby



that our baby is born with two holes in her heart.

"I thought I'll not share this, but I'm sharing this because I feel that there are a lot of mothers who helped me in this journey, and it was very difficult to find those mothers..." the actor said.

Basu said she and Singh Grover were "numb" when they found out about their daughter's medical condition: ventricular septal defect or VSD, which is a birth defect of the heart in which there is a hole in the wall (septum) that separates the two lower chambers (ventricles) of the heart.

"We didn't even understand what a VSD is. We went through a crazy period. We didn't discuss this with our family, we both were in a little bit of a blur.

"We wanted to celebrate but we were a little numb, me and Karan... You feel so sad, burdened, and conflicted because how can you put such a small child in an open heart surgery," she recalled.

The actor said it took her 40 days to process the reality.

The first five months were "very difficult" for the new parents, she said. **–PTI**

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Best song

Satish Ninasam, who plays the lead in the film Matinee, described the song – Sanje Mele Sumne Phone Maadlaa Ninge from the film as the best song in his acting career. Rachitha Ram and Aditi Prabhudeva are paired opposite Satish in the film.

The song is sung by Vijaya Prakash while Poornachandra Tejaswi has penned its lyrics and composed the music.

A function was held on Thursday for the release of the song at MMB Legacy. Anand Audio released the song.

"It is a beautiful song. I consider this song as the best in my acting career," said Satish.

He said he could not say no to director Manohar Kampalli when he narrated the script. "This is the second movie in which I share screen space with Rachita Ram after the film Ayogya. The other female lead in this movie is Aditi Prabhudeva. This movie has four songs. ," he said.

Aditi said the songs look like an invitation for the audience to come watch Matinee at theaters.

From music to film direction

Laya Kokila, the elder brother of Sadhu Kokila, who has acted in and scored music for a few movies, is elated over his debut as a director in Sandalwood with the movie Thaiyatha.

The soundtrack of Thaiyatha was released in the presence of Christian, Hindu, and Muslim religious leaders. Lyricist-cum-director Ram Narayan has penned the lyric – Shivane Kaapaadu – which is about three religions while playback singer Anuradha Bhat has sung the song.

"Thaaytha is a horror genre with comedy and thrilling elements. Shahid, who bankrolled this movie, also wrote the film's script. I wrote the dialogues, screenplay, and scored music too. Riyan debuts as a hero with this movie. Harshika Poonacha is paired opposite Riyan. My daughter Bhanupriya plays a key role," said Laya Kokila.